

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176651
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RGRIBBIN:LAR
AF/C:EMARKS

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P 280133Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176651

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGUI 1567 ACTION LONDON
INFO SECSTATE PARIS YAOUNDE 27 JUL 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1567

FOR FCO FROM PRINCE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, CT, US, PFOR
SUBJ: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1555

1. SITREP 26TH. PRINCE AWAITED MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALL DAY
TO NO AVAIL, DESPITE REGULAR TELEPHONE CALLS.

2. BY ACCIDENT HE WAS PULLED IN TO ACT AS INTERPRETER AT DINNER
GIVEN BY MINISTER INFORMATION FOR DAILY MAIL JOURNALISTS, WHO
HAD HAD THREE HOURS INTERVIEW WITH EMPEROR. WHEN PRINCE RAISED
SUBJECT OF GOLDSMITH, MINISTER (WHO IS DOCTOR OF LAW) STATED
EMPHATICALLY THAT HE WAS SOUTH AFRICAN, GOLDSMITH HIMSELF HAD
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SAID IT. THIS WAS REITERATED THREE TIMES DURING CONVERSATION
WHEN PRINCE REPEATEDLY INSISTED ON GOLDSMITH'S BRITISH NATIONALITY.
QUESTION IF SA PASSPORT SEEN REMAINED UNANSWERED BUT MINISTER
CONTINUALLY POINTED TO ANOTHER TYPE OF NATIONALITY WHICH SOUNDED
LIKE "CRIN MAIN" AND WHICH HE EXPLAINED AS "ON DOIT A DES MAINS
PROPRES". MINISTER THEN DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT ON GROUNDS HE
WAS NOT MINISTER CONCERNED.

3. LATER EDWARDS IN CAPACITY OF FELLOW JOURNALIST ASKED (THROUGH PRINCE) WHEN GOLDSMITH WOULD BE RELEASED. MINISTER SAID BEFORE EDWARDS RETURNED FOR CORONATION ON 4 DECEMBER. WHEN PRINCE EXPRESSED EXTREME DISMAY AT POSSIBILITY 4 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT MINISTER SAID "NON, AVANT CA, AVANT CA". PRINCE SAID THAT WAS NOT A GOOD TIME FOR A FOREIGN JOURNALIST TO BE IMPRISONED IN ECA. HE ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO HIS CONCERN BECAUSE OF GOLDSMITH'S AGE AND CARDIAC CONDITION BUT MINISTER ASSURED EVERYONE HE WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND THAT EMPEROR WAS A KINDLY MAN: THIS WAS NOT UGANDA. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN HE LAST SAW GOLDSMITH. WHEN EDWARDS THEN ASKED IF HE COULD SEE GOLDSMITH BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON THE 28TH, MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD NOT HELP MATTERS. HE THEN DECLINED FURTHER CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT (OTHERWISE DINNER WAS MOST FRIENDLY).

4. IN VIEW ABOVE CONVERSATION AND FACTS THAT EMPEROR AT BERENGO MEETING STATED A. "IL N'EST PAS ANGLAIS", B. GOLDSMITH HAD ADMITTED HE WAS SOUTH AFRICAN, AND C. HE MAY HAVE BEEN BORN ENGLISH BUT HE IS SOUTH AFRICAN, IT APPEARS THAT GOLDSMITH'S ALLEGED SA CITIZENSHIP IS KEY POINT. THIS TIES IN WITH RUMORS (FROM FRENCH AND RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES) ALREADY REPORTED THAT HE IS BEING USED AS PAWN IN ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT MONEY FROM SA. IN THIS CASE, VISIT OF BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS INSISTENCE (TO THREE MINISTERS) ON GOLDSMITH'S BRITISH NATIONALITY MAY HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOCAE.
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5. WILL YOU PLEASE OBTAIN CONFIRMATION, IF POSSIBLE BY MORNING OF 28TH, A. FROM SA AUTHORITIES THAT GOLDSMITH IS NOT SA CITIZEN, AND B. FROM WIFE/AP/ANY OTHER SOURCE THAT HE HAS NO SA CONNECTION.

6. IN ABSENCE DEVELOPMENTS TODAY AND TOMORROW AND DEPENDENT ON RESULTS SA RESEARCHES, PRINCE BELIEVES BEST COURSE NOW TO RETURN DOUALA 29TH AFTER WHICH STRONGEST PRESSURE BE BROUGHT TO BEAR FROM OUTSIDE ECA, NOT ONLY DIPLOMATIC BUT ESPECIALLY FROM IMPORTANT PRESS ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS.

7. EDWARDS OF DAILY MAIL WILL CALL ON WAD 28TH OR 29TH.
SMITH.
UNQUOTE VANCE".

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS, CITIZENSHIP AUTHENTICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE176651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRIBBIN:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-1099
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977079/aaaaagzn.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7cc9b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGUI 1555
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1958124
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, SOPN, CT, US, (GOLDSMITH, MICHAEL)
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7cc9b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009